

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /099 W
-----051420Z 067372 /41

R 051302Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1192
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1968

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, ECRE, ECWA, PORG, LE
SUBJECT: ECWA ACTIVITY IN LEBANON

REF: (A) AMMAN 1453 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR, ECWA SECRETARY GENERAL, MOHAMMAD SAID AL ATTAR, SAID THAT ECWA HAS TAKEN DECISION TO RETURN ITS TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS TO BEIRUT AT END OF JUNE 1977. GOL HAS PRESSED ISSUE OF RETURN TO LEBANON AS ECWA VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN RETURN OF NORMALITY TO LEBANON, AS DEMONSTRATION THAT NORMALITY HAS RETURNED AND ALSO IN CONNECTION WITH GOL'S (SARKIS PERSONALLY) HOPE TO BRING ECWA INTO RECONSTRUCTION AND REBUILDING TASKS. ATTAR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN GERNERAL SECURITY SITUATION THOUGH HE RETAINS DOUBTS ABOUT PERSONAL SECURITY CONDITIONS. CHOICE OF JUNE AS TIME OF RETURN APPEARS DICTATED BY DESIRE TO AVOID INTERRUPTION OF SCHOOLING OF DEPENDENTS OF ECWA STAFF AND REQUIREMENT FOR DECISION IN JUNE AS MOVE TO AMMAN LAST JUNE WAS TO HAVE BEEN FOR ONE YEAR.

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2. FOR LONGER TERM, ECWA HAS MADE TENTATIVE DECISION TO LOCATE PERMANENTLY IN BAGHDAD. AT LAST YEAR'S ECWA PLENARY, IRAQ MADE OFFER OF PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR ECWA HEADQUARTERS IN BAGHDAD AND HAD HOPED ECWA WOULD CHOOSE BAGHDAD AS SITE FOR TEMPORARY MOVE FROM BEIRUT. ATTAR

INDICATED THAT CHOICE OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS LOCATION IS NOT YET ENTIRELY DEFINITE AND THAT LEBANESE WILL CONTINUE TO LOBBY FOR AND SEEK BIG POWER SUPPORT OF ITS DESIRE TO BECOME ECWA PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS.

3. ATTAR INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON HAS REQUESTED ECWA TO TAKE PROMINENT ROLE IN TWO ASPECTS OF RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTRY. IN FIRST, ECWA IS TO HELP COORDINATE IMMEDIATE RELIEF EFFORTS, PROVIDE ADVISE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT, (INCLUDING SPECIAL GROUP OF EXPERTS TO WORK WITH MINSITER CHARGED WITH PLANNING IN GOL REORGANIZATION IN THIS AREA) AND ASSIST IN LONG TERM PLANNING. REGARDING IMMEDIATE RELIEF EFFORTS, ATTAR SAID THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN LARGELY COOPERATIVE WITH ECWA EFFORTS BUT THAT ARAB STATES HAD NOT BEEN ENTIRELY HELPFUL OR INFORMATIVE. SECONDLY, ECWA IS TO HELP COORDINATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH GOL ON BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON. IN THIS REGARD DEGREE OF COOPERATION HAS VARIED ALSO. FRANCE, HE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR, HAS PREFERRED TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF ECWA IN VIEW OF ITS HISTORICAL SPECIAL INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN01968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770118-0349
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770489/aaaaczcy.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 735279aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 AMMAN 1453
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2899333
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECWA ACTIVITY IN LEBANON
TAGS: EAID, ECRE, PORG, LE, ECWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/735279aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009